



YOUTH Lego team supplies recycle barrels, Page 10



# **ADVERTISER**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## **Burbank to take open seat**

By Mike Lydick aan@turley.com

Brian Burbank, the only unsuccessful candidate on last November's ballot for School Committee, finally joined the board this week as a mid-term replacement.

Burbank was chosen on Tuesday in a 15-0 vote by members of the City Council and School Committee to fill the vacancy on the board left by Roberta Doering's unexpected death last month. He will join the board immediately and serve until the term expires in January 2018.

Burbank has attended committee meetings during the past four years. The Feeding Hills resident —

the parent of five children — said he understands the "issues and challenges" facing the committee and is ready to "hit the ground running."

He added that he appreciated the support of the councilors and School Committee members. He also said that he had a lot of respect for Doering and what she stood for during her more than four decades on the committee.

"I have big shoes to fill," he said. "I hope that I can live up to what she accomplished while serving in this position."

Burbank was among seven residents who had submitted applications for the position by the April 8 deadline. All except Burbank

withdrew their names for consideration prior to Tuesday's meeting. The other six were Susan Dawson, a former mayor; Michael Dobise; Linda Galarneau, a former School Committee member; Lou Massoia; Rosemary Sandlin, a former School Committee member and state representative; and Lynn Tingley.

Burbank needed nine votes to be elected; he received 15. All 11 councilors and four School Committee members voted for him on the first ballot. School board members Wendy Rua and Diane Juzba abstained. Both Juzba and Rua said they supported Burbank joining the board,

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School Committee member Anthony Bonavita, left, congratulates Brian Burbank following his appointment to the committee on Tuesday night. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

DARCY DAVIS BAND SHELL

## for band leader

By Michael J. Ballway mballway@turley.com

arcy Davis has been an institution on the Agawam music scene for six de-

Now his name will be on the town's most prominent outdoor musical venue.

The City Council last month approved renaming the new band shell at School Street Park in honor of Davis, who was Agawam High School's band director from 1955 to 1990 and has remained active in the town's music scene since then.

It was Davis who took the Agawam band to national tournaments — and won. It was Davis, and his son, who gave them the name "the Marching Mohawks." It was Davis who started the tradition of Broadway-style musical stage productions at AHS.

"I've been fortunate to have many amazing things happen, and not that I was deserving of them, but I had good fortune all along the away," he commented last week.

To the Band Parents Association, however, it's the town of Agawam that was fortunate to have Davis.

It was AHS band members, band alumni and band parents who requested the honor, and the band shell will be officially rededicated during the high school's "Band-Athon," 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 28. The

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**AGAWAM YMCA** 

## Plans on track to keep 'Y' family center open

New nonprofit seeking larger partner, will change name to 'West of the River'

By Michael J. Ballway

mballway@turley.com

Three weeks after the Greater Springfield YMCA announced it would close its branch in Agawam, local leaders say they are "very confident" that the facility will remain open under a new

A group of Agawam YMCA Advisory Board members have established the nonprofit West of the River Family Center and are in negotiations with two larger nonprofit organizations to provide administrative and programming support to keep the fitness and community center open on Springfield Street.

Joseph Mineo, the chairman of the advisory board at the Agawam YMCA Wellness and Family Program Center, will continue as president of the new West of the River nonprofit. He said on Tuesday that the new nonprofit is making fast progress toward taking over the facility, though there are still several details to be settled.

"I'm pretty confident ... that this will work out," Mineo said. "There's many things we have to do. We have to figure out what the [Springfield] Y is taking and what the Y is leaving. We don't know if, May 31, we're going to have a facility that even has equipment. I'm not sure of anything yet."

Mayor Richard Cohen, who is also a member of the advisory

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#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Report urges more senior, multi-family developments

By Gregory A. Scibelli qscibelli@turley.com

According to the Housing Needs Assessment, Agawam needs more affordable housing.

Finding a way to bring more low-cost and multi-family developments to town will be the task of a future housing action plan, members of the Agawam Housing Subcommittee said this week.

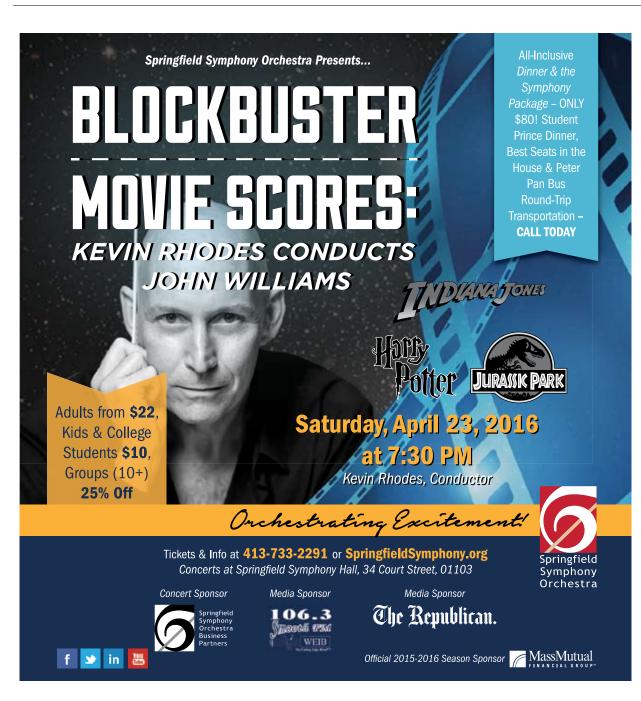
On Tuesday night, the subcommittee was presented with the final draft of Housing Needs Assessment by Jan Goldsen from the JM Goldsen Community Preservation and Planning firm. She worked with Shawn Rairigh, a senior planner from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and Judi Barrett of RKG Associates, to complete the assessment.

The assessment detailed what types of affordable housing is available in Agawam, and what the consultants believe is needed.

The first need is more multiunit housing, Goldsen said.

'The town has a lack of multiunit housing that is actually be-

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## Grant will fund small business workshop

A \$10,000 state grant will pay for small business support workshops for the merchants of Walnut Street Extension, officials said this month.

Agawam was one of 13 communities to receive one of the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative grants, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga announced last week.

"I was pleased to hear that the town of Agawam received these grants to help establish a program for downtown retail retention," Boldyga said. "Agawam has been looking to revitalize the downtown area for some time and I believe this will help them immensely. I look forward to this program's implementation and the effects it will have on businesses in the downtown area."

Marc Strange, Agawam's director of planning and community development, said the program will consist of a consultant-led two-hour workshop with small businesses on Walnut Street Extension, where the town is hoping to foster a "walkable downtown" environment, to be followed by followup sessions involving the consultant and individual businesses. The details are still being worked on, Strange said, but the program is expected to be completed in the next six months.

## Westfield River cleanup volunteers needed

On Saturday, April 23, volunteers of all ages will help remove piles of trash and large debris from various rivers and streams in the Westfield River watershed. The annual cleanup, sponsored by the Westfield River Watershed Association, is a way to celebrate spring and help protect this valuable natural resource.

Volunteers in Agawam should meet at the Pynchon Point parking lot near the South End Bridge circle on River Road. WRWA will distribute gloves and trash bags and offer safety tips, then send out the teams. Assignments are generally completed by 1 p.m. or earlier.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome, but children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities for pickup of trash and debris recovered at each site. For questions, contact Sheryl Becker 413-374-1921, sher1earth69@gmail.com.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people's enjoyment and for sound ecology. To learn more, visit www.westfieldriver.



#### Workshop next month for Alzheimer's caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association is presenting a workshop on communication strategies for dementia caregivers Monday, May 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Effective Communication Strategies explores how communication takes place when someone has dementia, teaches strategies to decode verbal and behavioral messages and will help caregivers connect and communicate through all stages of the disease. To register or for more information, call 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org/MANH.

The Alzheimer's Association, with headquarters in Watertown, Mass., has regional offices in Springfield, Raynham and Worcester, Mass., and Bedford, N.H. The Alzheimer's Association provides services and programs for those with Alzheimer's, family and professional caregivers in the form of support groups, a 24-7 helpline, care consultation, advocacy efforts, research funding and education programs.

For more information about Alzheimer programs, visit www.alz.org/MANH or call

### Chamber to host 'Wicked Wednesday' May 4

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will present "Wicked Wednesday" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, at Park Square Realty, 470 Westfield St., West Springfield.

The event is free for Chamber members, \$10 for non-members, and is open to all. Non-members must pay at the door.

Wicked Wednesdays are monthly social events, hosted by various businesses and restaurants, bringing members and nonmembers together to social network in a relaxed atmosphere.

For more information contact the Chamber at 413-426-3880 or info@westoftheriverchamber.com.

#### You Asked?

## School St. roadwork restarting soon Does anyone know what the plans are for School Street and the bike

path? The road is terrible when you come up from River Road and the side they were planning to continue the bike path is unfinished and looks awful. It's unsafe for pedestrians and bike riders. This project has barely been touched since last spring, and I'm just wondering if it will ever get done and what the delay could be?

– Delia, on "Agawam, MA Open Forum" at Facebook.com

You should see construction crews back at work on School Street "any day now," said Mayor Richard Cohen earlier

Last year, workers installed a paved bike path along the easternmost stretch River Walk on River Road to the entrance of School Street Park. Plans call for the bike route to extend all the way down School Street to Main Street. Along some portions of School Street, instead of a dedicated bike path, the roadway will be widened so that bicyclists would "share the road" with drivers.

The town had hoped to complete the project during last year's construction season, but had to stop work while they re-engineered some retaining walls and



of School Street, connecting the Agawam Roadwork is expected to restart this week or next on School Street. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY

secured additional funding. The project is ready to restart now, Cohen said.

"That's all been taken care of and approved," said Cohen. "Then we had the winter so they couldn't finish it. We look to the completion of that as soon as possible this year so that people can hopefully begin enjoying that this summer."

Marc Strange, the town's planning and community development director, said the remaining work will probably take about three months.

Written by Michael J. Ballway. "You Asked?" is an occasional series of short articles answering questions of local interest from Agawam Advertiser News readers and social media. See something around town you'd like to know more about? Email your question to aan@turley.com.

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## Opinion

in November.

## The right choice - for this time

There's something to be said for giving the job to someone who didn't wait to be asked. Without impugning the qualifications of the other applicants to fill the late Roberta Doering's open seat on the School Committee — some of whom have served in elected office in the past — the City Council and School Committee made the right decision this week in choosing Brian Burbank to serve the

remainder of the term for which Doering was elected

In part, that's because Burbank himself was on that 2015 ballot. In an election where there were no open seats, Burbank stepped up to offer himself as an alternative to the six incumbents. He seemed motivated purely by service — he didn't attack any one of his opponents or ask voters to "throw the bums out." He ran a positive, intelligent, issues-oriented campaign and it's fitting to reward that effort with a seat on the board.

His example makes a compelling case for the charter change suggested by School Committee member Wendy Rua — to automatically select the highest runner-up of the previous election. It would have been a shame if, for example, a faction on the City Council had placed a political ally on the school board rather than someone who did the same hard work of researching policies, defending positions and canvassing voters that the elected members of the board did.

But there's also a danger in automatic selection. Consider that in the election of 2015, Burbank was not just the top vote-getter among school board challengers — he was the only one. As a serious candidate, he acquitted himself well in the final tally, but suppose some fringe candidate had mounted the only opposition. Under the automatic selection procedure, the seventh-place finisher would have a free pass to join the board even if he were a frivolous or politically unrepresentative candidate. He would need only 30 percent of the top vote-getter's support. In an election like last year's, when Anthony Bonavita led the slate with 3,052 votes, and each of the other five incumbents polled higher than 2,700, an outlier with only 920 votes could end up as an automatic mid-term vacancy replacement.

Fortunately, that's not the case this time. Burbank earned 2,333 votes and was, and is, a serious and highly qualified candidate who deserves the chance he's been given to serve on the board. The positions he took and the tone he struck during the 2015 campaign indicate that he should fit in well with his new colleagues while adding a fresh perspective.

Like the incumbent committee members, Burbank is concerned about Common Core and over-testing of students. He also shares their support for building a new Early Childhood Center to replace the current Perry Lane facility. In a pre-election interview in October, however, he stressed that the town will have to find a way to build the new center without raising

His background in technology should prove useful to the committee as computer systems continue to form a larger and larger part of the schools' budget and curriculum.

For whatever reasons, more than half of the voters in last year's election thought that Burbank was ready for a seat on the School Committee at that time. Half a year later, their choice has his chance.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

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### Letters to the Editor

### Don't laud town for inaction on pollution

Under the Our View section ("Games and Lanes Strategy Pays Off," page 4, April 7), the article says "it is also a political vindication a long time coming."

No, it is not. No political vindication.

The contamination has spread a whole block at least. Businesses and land have been contaminated.

Once the contamination left the property, once the town learned the contamination has left the property, the town should have used the Brownfield Fund to clean up the contamination.

The town's cleanup plan was to let the contamination spread, so it would dilute the levels of contamination, and then no cleanup would be needed.

But that cleanup plan did not work.

And how many people have had their health affected by this contamination?

This is not about money. It is about the health of the people, the land values of the other properties hurt.

For the town to want Rocky's to place a deed restriction on the land to not use it for Residential tells you this hurt the Rocky's

The inaction of the town is not political vindication.

> William Clark Feeding Hills

## How can I thank you? Let me count the ways

After eight years at the former Cathedral High School, eight years at Putnam Vocational Technical High School and 22 fantastic years at Agawam High School, I am retiring. I am leaving with mixed emotions. I will not miss testing days, blood drives, voting, etc., days that take away our physical education days. But I will miss everything that has to do with my students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation, hard work and respect throughout my time spent here at Agawam High School. It has been an immense pleasure to be your physical education teacher and the positive relationships I've formed here over the last

I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing my teaching skills and knowledge with all of you. You've all inspired me to be a better person, with every class being so full of love and passion. I've always thought of you as daughters and sons, disciplining you when you did not perform to your potential, laughing constantly and watching you grow into mature, young adults. My last year was as high energy as any year in my career — Class of 2016!

What I enjoyed most about teaching:

- 1. Being able to do things "my way." I never compromised my style of teaching.
  - 2. Making you feel "safe" always.
- 3. Supporting you during "difficult

- 4. The energy and enthusiasm of my physical education students.
- 5. Saying "Good morning" between 7:05-
- 6. Hanging out with my "Breakfast Club."
- 7. Conversations in the PE office with
- 8. Having some of the best PE interns. 9. My advisory group — I will miss you
- 10. Having cafeteria duty got to see the students I didn't see in PE.
- 11. Attending athletic events, winter arts festivals, etc.
- 12. Our volleyball and floor hockey tour-
- 13. "Spirit Week!"
- 14. The relationships formed with the secretarial staff, guidance staff, cafeteria staff and custodial staff — I think of you ev ery day "Andy."
- 15. All the help given to me by Mrs. Montagna and Mrs. Mokrzycki when I taught foods (can you believe that?) and health.
- 16. Room 32 you guys are so awe-
- 17. The friendships formed with all those I taught with — thank you!

I could go on and on, but you all know that 17 is my "favorite" number.

> **Mary Murray** Springfield

## Police, fire departments in town deserve kudos

On Tuesday, April 5, we had the need to request emergency services by the Agawam Police and Fire departments. We would like to commend Fire Station 2 personnel Pamela Murphy, Rick Giordano, John Pollack, Robert LaFrance and Jordan Molta, along with Agawam Police Officers Mark Ceccarini and John Kunasek, for their quick response, professionalism and personal assistance concerning our needs. We are fortunate to live in a community with such caring and compassionate public servants. Kudos to them!

> The Phillips Family Feeding Hills



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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon, Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 380 Union Street, Suite 52; West Springfield, MA 01089 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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JAY SPEAKS

## Days of thunder at Riverside Park

Jay Berger

ast week, I picked up our son Scott at the train station in Windsor Locks. Driving home we passed Six Flags and

Scott remembered his summers at Riverside Park, particularly at the stock car track close to the

After his turn at nostalgia, I recalled my time with stock car racing, also at Riverside.

My uncle Jack had invited me to join his company in Springfield. He was getting deeper into food production, and knowing of my background, he wanted me to leave my job in Florida and work with him in Springfield.

I had been on the job for a few weeks and was enjoying lunch with some of the fellow workers. One named Burke was talking about his effort to get a car of his ready to race at Riverside Park. He said, "I need some more money and I will need a crew if I am going to compete at the stock car races this summer."

Frank, who was next to me, asked, "How much money will it take and how many men to round out a crew?" Burke answered, "I think that about a thousand dollars will do it. Perhaps \$500 to finish off the car. Are you in, Jay, with a couple of hundred to enter the races and the balance for parts to stock the pit?"

Frank looked around, saying, "I'd like to be a part of this and I would put up a hundred dollars, anyone else?" A few more guys raised their hands and they looked at me. "Are you in, Jay?" Wanting to be a part of something, I nodded yes! Burke had his finances in order.

We did a lot of looking on as Burke completed the renovation of his stock car and readied it for Riverside.

Wally was named treasurer and he advanced the money for our first race at Riverside Park. It was a Saturday night. I was nominated for the pit crew. Me! Jay! I didn't know a monkey wrench from an air pump.

Suddenly I was a racing car mechanic. What is wrong with this picture?

Burke drove our entry into the pit position

and we looked at it in comparison with other entries for our race. The others were shiny and the driver and pit crew wore uniforms. Our entry was multi colored and rather rusty. We didn't even have a number. The overall boss of the pits came by and

You have been assigned number 26." One of the guys came up with a magic marker and we scrolled No. 26 on all sides of our car.

said, "Get a number on that wreck!

Burke brought our entry to the starting line while we all held our breath. Burke was in his steel cage inside our stock car. Can we compete?

The starters gun fired and all cars moved forward. The race was six times around the oval. Burke and No. 26 were in sixth position out of nine cars after three laps. Suddenly, at the beginning of the fourth lap, the lead car blew a tire. The car skidded across the track. Four of the trailing cars smashed into the leader.

Burke had time to pull around the wreck before the race was stopped.

After the track was cleared, the race resumed and our No. 26, with a giant lead, ended up in a third-place finish. A win is a win!

We were not so fortunate in the future. Finally, our treasurer announced, at the end of a race, "We are almost out of funds. Will any of our investors throw in more funds to continue.?" No one offered funds. Burke was upset and said that he would ask other people. I don't think he was successful.

I gave up stock car racing for tennis and girls.

But we did have one victory.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.



The American Cancer Society Evening of Hope Gala, "The Spirit of Spring," is set to take place from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 14, at Chez Josef in Agawam.

This year's honoree and recipient of the Omar T. Pace Award is Philip Glynn, M.D. Glynn is the director of oncology at Mercy Medical Center, as well as medical director of Noble VNA and Hospice. Certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hospice and palliative care, Glynn has practiced medical oncology in the Springfield area for more than 25 years, and is a longtime supporter of the American Cancer Society Evening of Hope Gala.

Funds raised will benefit the American Cancer Society and its programs and services. Proceeds from the event's unique live auction, Hands Up for Hope, will provide free services to cancer patients in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties.

The event will include a formal dinner, auction and dancing to Beantown. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Annie Hurwitz at 508-270-4749 or email annie.hurwitz@cancer.org.

## Class reunion open to all '70s grads

The Agawam High School Class of 1976 is hosting a "'70s Reunion" for all classes graduating from Agawam High School in the '70s. The event will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday July 16, at the Summit View Banquet House Pavilion, 555 Northampton St., Holyoke. All classes are welcome to attend.

Tickets are \$35 per person and includes dinner, dancing, cash bar and lots of fun with old friends. For more information, contact Jon Lund 413-335-4593 or targink@yahoo.com, Michelle Bussiere at mbussiere 101@gmail.com.or visit the Facebook group "Agawam High School Class of 76."

#### **DEATH NOTICES**

#### Girard, Raymond

Died April 8 Funeral April 13 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

#### Scott, Thelma G. Griffin

Died April 3 Funeral April 11 Henderson's Funeral Home, Springfield

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**Turley Publications** offers two types of obituaries.

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From left, Sophie Collins, Jaime Pearsons and Margie Secora bring attention to the small marker at the birthplace of Annie Sullivan, whose life story they are retelling at the Red Door Theatre this

## Local actresses bring Annie Sullivan to life

The Red Door Theatre continues its 25th anniversary celebration with a premiere production of "Teacher — The Annie Sullivan Story" by local playwright and Red Door co-founder Lyle Pearsons.

Annie Sullivan is known worldwide as the teacher and beloved companion of Helen Keller. In his play, Pearsons uses three characters to portray Sullivan at different stages of her life — Sophie Collins of Suffield, Jaime Pearsons of Agawam and Margie Secora of East Hartland, Conn. Her story is narrated by the three actresses with the action of the scenes often played out in a shadow show. A special complement to the production is the original music composed and performed by Dan Kehoe, lately of Suffield.

Sullivan's birth and early life took place in Feeding Hills in the late 1800s. Pearsons became interested in her life after reading a book, "Gentle Hands to Victory," by local author Jean Welt Taylor. The monument that designates the site of Sullivan's birthplace lies at the bottom of the hill that leads up to the Red Door Theatre and Hope Community Church at 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

The play will be performed in a limited run this Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling 413-789-2026. A special raffle and silent auction is being held for autographed books by Taylor. The money raised will go toward repairing the small stone plaque, which has been slightly damaged. There is a special invitationonly performance on Thursday at 7 p.m., which is sold out. Several local dignitaries, city councilors and civic organizations are being represented.

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Portrait artist to demonstrate skill in oils

Tobacco Valley Artists Association will host renowned portrait artist Paul Leveille on Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Leveille will demonstrate his mastery in oil portrait paint-

From his studio in the hills of Western Massachusetts, Leveille paints the portraits of many distinguished clients, both nationally and internationally. In addition to fulfilling portrait commissions, he also teaches painting workshops around the country. He is a graduate of Vesper George School of Art in Boston and is a member of several national art associations, including Academic Artist Association, Pastel Society of America and Portrait Society of America, Oil Painters of America.

Leveille has produced three videos titled "Oil Portrait Demonstration," "Pastel Portrait Demonstration" and "Watercolor Portrait Demonstration," and is the author of three books, "Drawing Expressive Portraits," "Painting Expressive Portraits in Oil" and "Painting Expressive Portraits in Pastel." He has been featured in numerous magazines. For more information, visit paul.leveille@paulleveillestudio.com.

TVAA is comprised of members throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Regular meetings and artist demonstrations are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Agawam Senior Cen-

The Senior Center is at 954 Main St., Agawam. All are welcome.

## Senior Center to host 'Trial and Error'

The Agawam Senior Center will host a performance of the interactive comedymystery play "Trial and Error" by Steve Henderson, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Friday, April 22.

The audience will view the most ridiculous, most hilarious miscarriage of the justice system ever. Hilarity triumphs over due process every time in this semi-legal thriller. Audience members may need to testify.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The program is free and open to the public. Gratuities are welcome. The Senior Center is at 954 Main St., Agawam.

## DPW is selling compost bins, rain barrels

The town of Agawam will sell compost bins in addition to rain barrels again this spring. According the DPW Environmental Project Coordinator Tracy DeMaio, "We have had an increase in requests for compost bins, and rain barrels continue to be popular in Agawam. More and more residents are using rain barrels, making water conservation a way of life in their homes, while also helping to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff on Agawam's wetlands, rivers and streams. Also, more residents are looking to compost their food scraps and yard waste, creating an organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow."

A rain barrel collects rainwater from the roof and stores it for use during dry weather to water house plants or outside gardens. Collecting water in a rain barrel is an excellent way to save some of the runoff and take the pressure off water supply and stormwater management systems. Collected rainfall is especially valuable during droughts or dry conditions. It contains more nutrients and less salts than tap water, which is good for plants.

The rain barrels are made from 55-gallon recycled food-grade barrels in a terra cotta color. The fully screened intake port keeps mosquitoes, insects and debris out. The lid can be removed for easy cleaning and for storing hoses inside the barrel during the winter. The solid brass threaded spigot can be connected to a regular hose or soaker hose. The overflow connector and tubing can be used to direct water away from the foundation or to join multiple barrels for additional storage capacity.

The compost bins are also made of 55gallon recycled food-grade barrels in a black color, and come partially assembled. The frame is made of cedar wood and is nailed together with galvanized nails. It is light weight, so it can be easily moved. Once assembled, the barrel turns easily on a steel rod to keep composting material well mixed, so it breaks down quicker.

The town will be taking orders with payment through Friday, April 22. All pre-ordered barrels should be picked up by residents from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, at the Department of Public Works, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam. Rain barrels are \$60 each; composting bins are \$75 each. To order, send or drop off payment and order form to the DPW. Make checks payable to "Jack Miller." Order forms are available online at www.agawam.ma.us or at the DPW.





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As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@ turley.com.

A **TURLEY** PUBLICATION

## Public Safety

#### **POLICE LOG**

The Agawam Police Department responded to 294 calls for service from April 4 to April 10. The department recorded six arrests in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

#### Thursday, April 7

Natalie J. Wayte, 32, of 96 Royal St., Agawam, was arrested on a warrant and a charge of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle (expired).

#### Saturday, April 9

Axaenid Cortez, 24, of 111 Maynard St., Springfield, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear. Debra J. McNeish, 44, of 16 Southview Drive, Southwick, was arrested on charges of marked lanes violation

#### Sunday, April 10

Jeizzel Burgos, 39, of 20 Palm St., 1st Floor, Springfield, was arrested on charges of speeding and operating a motor vehicle with license revoked as a habitual traffic offender.

Lissett Noguera, 31, of 77 Walnut St., No. 2, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant.

Alyssa Orwat, 26, of 9A Castle St., Ware, was arrested on charges of malicious damage to a motor vehicle and attempted breaking and entering.

#### **FIRE LOG**

Fire logs for Aprli 5-11 were not received in time for the press deadline. They will be printed in a future edition of the Agawam Advertiser News.

## and operating under the influence of liquor. Democratic challenger joins state Senate race

SOUTHAMPTON — Longtime Southampton resident J.D. Parker-O'Grady re-

cently announced his candidacy as a Democrat for the Massachusetts Senate, 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, which includes Agawam.

Parker-O'Grady is currently completing his law degree from Northeastern University. He recently concluded a judicial internship for U.S. District Court Judge Timothy S. Hillman.

He has worked as a campaign intern for Mass Alliance; a delivery truck driver for Opa-Opa Brewing Co.; a field organizer for Obama for America in 2008; and, following completion of a graduate degree in law and public policy at Northeastern, on the staff of the former state senator for the district.

> "My decision to run for this position was based upon my previous work experience with Sen. Michael Knapik as legislative director for this district," Parker-O'Grady said.

The district is currently represented by state Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, who announced last month that he will seek re-election. The district consists of 11 cities and towns, stretching from Tolland to parts of Chi-

Nomination papers in state races are due May 10. The state primary election is Sept. 8; the general election is Nov. 8.



J.D. Parker-O'Grady

## Our advertisers make this



State Sen. Don Humason, left, is pictured with Agawam Republican Town Committee officers Robert Magovern, Ronald LaRiviere, Cecilia Calabrese and George Bitzas. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## **Town GOP restarts, elects officers**

After several years of inactivity, Agawam Republicans have restarted the Agawam Republican Town Committee. At its initial meeting April 5, the group held an election of officers for the executive board. The new leaders of the Agawam RTC are Robert Magovern, chairman; George Bitzas, vice chairman; Ronald LaRiviere, secretary; and Cecelia Calabrese, treasurer.

"The GOP is growing in Western Mass.," said Magovern. "Many of us felt that it was time to restart the Republican Town Committee and be active once again as a group in town politics."

LaRiviere said Agawam has historically had a Republican Town Committee that worked hard for the people, and he looks

forward to continuing in that tradition.

"Our mission," said LaRiviere, "is to make the committee relevant and accessible to people who have an interest about local government, make the Republican Party more visible to Agawam voters and to increase the Republican presence in Agawam by becoming involved in community activities when possible."

State Sen. Don Humason, R-Westfield, attended the April 5 meeting and gave the group his best wishes and advice for moving forward. The Agawam RTC is open to any resident interested in becoming a new member. Contact Magovern at Neighbor12@aol.com for information.

## Golden Agers travel to see Friesians

The Agawam Golden Age Club Chapter 2 will host a trip Thursday, May 19, for the Friesians of Majesty equestrian tour and performance in Vermont. Spectators will meet stallions Othello and Mathiis as well as their babies in the barn, and watch a show as dressage freestyle is exhibited, driving is demonstrated, and a Fresian with her baby runs at liberty, all to music.

Prior to the horse show, there will be a luncheon at the Grafton Inn in Grafton, Vt. The day's events will also include free time

to visit Grafton Village.

The bus will depart Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, at 8:30 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$95 per person and includes roundtrip motor coach transportation, horse show and carriage ride, full luncheon and all taxes and gratuities.

For reservations, contact Nancy King at 413-786-0556 or Carol Allen at 413-789-

## Public input sought on **Community Preservation Act**

Agawam residents are invited to provide input on the goals of the Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee at a public hearing to be held Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

The committee was formed to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. The committee will provide an overview of the financial performance of the CPA fund, share recent accomplishments and also seek input on future projects and spending.

CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Community preservation money is raised locally through the imposition of a 1 percent surcharge on annual real estate taxes. Most residents pay on average of \$33 a year into the CPA fund. The CPA statute also creates a statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, administered by the Department of Revenue, which provides distributions each year to communities.

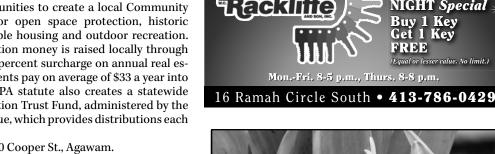
The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

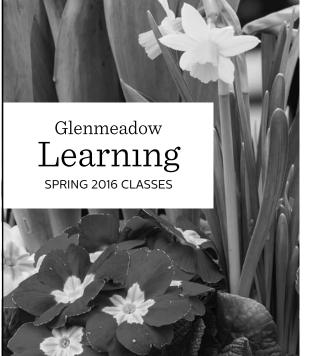
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Programs are free and open to the public, but space is limited and reservations are required. To enroll, call 413.567.7800 or e-mail learning@glenmeadow.org. Visit glenmeadow.org/learning. Glenmeadow

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## Legals

#### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hold its annual public hearing at the Agawam Library Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 7:00PM. The Committee will provide an overview of the financial performance of the CPA fund as well share recent accomplishments. The CPC will also welcomes input on goals, activities, procedures and spending The CPC is encouraging residents, town boards, committees and commissions to attend and discuss the needs and possibilities of projects that may qualify for Community Preservation Act funds. Please be advised that the CPA Committee is required by M.G.L. Ch.

44B to consult with existing municipal boards to study the needs the needs, possibilities and resources of the city regarding community preservation.

4/14,4/21/16

#### AGAWAM ZONING **BOARD OF APPEALS** LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

March 31, 2016 Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the appeal of H.P. Hood, LLC, which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-56 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances to allow for the construction of three milk storage silos at the premises identified as 233 Main Street. **Doreen Prouty** Chairperson

Agawam Board of Appeals 4/7,4/14/16

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Agawam, acting through its Chief Procurement Officer issues this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") to qualified parties ("Proposer") who have an interest in providing Snack Bar Concessions at Borgatti Field. The City hereby requests competitive sealed proposals in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, § 6, for the period beginning June 1, 2016 to November 1, 2016. The Town reserves the right at its sole discretion to renew this Agreement for an additional two (2) one (1) season terms.

On April 6, 2016, the RFP will be made available to interested parties who submit a request to the Chief Procurement Officer; Jennifer Bonfiglio. A copy of the RFP will also be available for inspection at the Procurement Office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested parties may call (413) 726-9742 or email Procurement@agawam.ma.us.

All responses to these proposals must be in writing and in the form set forth in this RFP and delivered in sealed envelopes to: Chief Procurement Officer, Town of Agawam-Lower Level, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Proposals will be received until May 6, 2016 at 2:00PM in the Procurement Conference Room.

The Town reserves the

right to reject any and all Proposals as determined to be in the best interests of the Town and to waive minor informalities. Any contract issued in response to a successful Proposal must be approved by the City Council. 4/14/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD16P0574EA Estate of: Jeffrey R Smith Date of Death: February 28, 2016 INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE** 

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Shelley S Snider of North Chelmsford MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate

Shelley S Snider of North Chelmsford MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervi-

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sion by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 4/14/16

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Agawam, acting through its Chief Procurement Officer issues this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") to qualified parties ("Proposer") who have an interest in providing Snack Bar Concessions at School Street Park. The Town hereby requests competitive sealed proposals in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, § 6, for the period beginning June 15, 2016 to September 15, 2016. The Town reserves the right at its sole discretion to renew this Agreement for

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an additional two (2) one (1) season terms.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES**

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to klanier@turley. com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x235.

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## AGAWAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS **FY'17 PROPOSED BUDGET**

В Α

Agawam – According to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 38N, copies of the proposed school department budget shall be available to the public 48 hours prior to the posted public hearing, which is scheduled for April 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium. There will be copies of the proposed budget available in the Superintendent's office located at the Agawam Junior High School, at the Town Clerk's office in the Agawam Town Hall located at 68 Main Street, and at the Agawam Public Library located at 750 Cooper Street.



### Chamber to host small business workshop

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West of the River Chamber along with SCORE is helping small businesses grow their presence online with "Let's Put West Springfield and Agawam on the Map," a workshop which will feature a lesson about getting found on Google search and maps. This free workshop will take place Thursday, May 12, at the West Springfield Public Library, 200 Park St., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"Let's Put West Springfield and Agawam on the Map" is part of Google's Get Your Business Online program and aims to bring community members, business owners, and civic leaders together to help small businesses succeed on the

"Four out of five consumers use search engines to find local information nearby, yet only 37 percent of businesses have claimed their listing on a search engine," said Soo Young Kim, head of small business engagement at Google. "Small businesses are the engine of local economies and when they flourish, their communities do as well."

"Let's Put Our Cities on the Map" is a program designed to empower communities to support their local businesses and encourage them to get on the map

This workshop is a Google presentation hosted by the West of the River Chamber and SCORE, a nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow and succeed nationwide. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration and has been mentoring small business owners for more than 40 years. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.westoftheriverchamber.com or call 413-426-3880.



The Agawam YMCA's logo will have to come down on May 31, but local officials are confident they can reopen the community center on Springfield Street immediately. FILE PHOTO

#### **BURBANK** I from page 1

but withheld their votes to protest the appointment process.

#### **Procedure questioned**

Juzba said discussions occurred in the days before and immediately following Doering's death on March 20 concerning who would be supported to fill the vacancy.

In a letter dated April 2 that she sent to her colleagues, Juzba questioned the need to have that discussion about filling Doering's seat so soon, "before people have an opportunity to grieve her loss."

Juzba wrote that she was "disappointed" by the town's elected officials, writing, "We have reached an all-time political low when we engage in discussion of replacing someone who hadn't even passed yet or hadn't yet been laid to rest."

Doering's funeral was April 1. City Council President James Cichetti, who presided over the joint board meeting, announced the vacancy and called the meeting on March 22, two days after Doering's death.

Rua said she abstained to protest the fact that the procedure for filling School Committee vacancies is not the same as the one for City Council vacancies.

Under the Agawam Home Rule Charter, if a vacancy occurs on the School Committee within the first 18 months of the term, the remaining members of the School Committee meet jointly with the full City Council to select "a suitable person" to serve the remainder of the term. Council vacancies

within the first 18 months of the two-year term are filled automatically by the defeated candidate in the last election who received the highest number of votes.

Furthermore, Rua said she was not able to get clear and coherent answers of what procedures the selection process would follow before the joint meeting.

"I felt that voicing a vote without a unified, transparent, respectful procedure is not a vote I could cast with integrity," she

She said she plans to seek the support of the City Council to change the charter so that the process for filling School Committee vacancies is similar to that for the council.

Burbank would have been selected automatically under the council procedure. He was the only challenger on the November 2015 town election ballot, which saw Doering and the other five incumbent School Committee members re-elected.

Doering — the first woman elected to the Agawam School Committee — began serving on the board in January 1970. At the time of her death, Doering had served for 46 years, the longest tenure of any School Committee member in Agawam and in Massachusetts.

The last time a vacancy occurred on the School Committee due to a death was April 2008. James "Jay" Cameron was appointed to the School Committee to fill the seat of the late John Burns.

#### **CENTER** ■ from page 1

board at the Agawam Y, said he believes the right structure will be in place by May 31, the date on which the YMCA plans to cease operations in Agawam. The West of the River nonprofit is hoping for a smooth transition from one operator to the next.

"As of now, I am very confident that that facility will stay open with no interruption," Cohen said this week.

Advisory board members said earlier this month that they'd like to keep all of the Y's programs and offerings the same under the new nonprofit structure. Only the name would change. Board members agreed that it made sense to drop the name "Agawam" and adopt a regional identity, such as "West of the River," to draw new members and support from neighboring towns such as West Springfield, Southwick and Suffield.

At a March 29 meeting, Andrew Melendez, the current executive director of the Agawam Y, outlined a financial plan that would keep the fitness and community center running, with no change in programming, outside the YMCA organization. He suggested that the Agawam center partner with another nonprofit organization to cut down on administrative costs, and also proposed eliminating his own salary. A \$20,000 annual fundraising campaign would be required to keep the center afloat, Melendez said last month.

Mineo said the West of the River Family Center is not in a position to take donations or hold fundraisers yet. Any funds received at the Agawam Y now would have to go to the Springfield Y.

Both Cohen and Mineo declined to

name the two nonprofit organizations being considered to help run the new family center. Negotiations are still underway, they said.

Melendez's plans were also built on a membership roll of 600 households. A month ago, the Agawam Y had 550 household memberships, but Mineo said that with the widely publicized news that the YMCA is closing, the Agawam facility has lost at least 90 memberships since then.

"I think people are scared that they're not going to have anywhere to go," Mineo said. "This is more of a community center, the way this Y has turned out, more than just a gym. People have bonded with people and made friendships, and there's a lot of good people who work at the Y. There's uncertainty. There's so much uncertainty on what's going to happen."

The Agawam YMCA opened in October 2014 as the first "express Y" in the Northeast - a fitness and wellness center without the swimming pool and gymnasium found at a traditional YMCA. In addition to programs at the storefront site, the Agawam Y partnered with the town Parks and Recreation Department to offer swimming lessons and indoor sports at Agawam Junior High School.

Last month, the new CEO of the Springfield Y, Scott Berg, abruptly announced the 17-month-old facility would close, citing mounting deficits and a failure to meet membership targets. Local leaders said they were not given a chance to try to save the facility, and felt "blindsided" by the announcement.







## Schools gain music education award

Agawam has been honored with the "Best Communities for Music Education" designation from the National Association of Music Merchandisers Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Agawam School Department joins 476 districts across the country in receiving the prestigious award this year.

Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Agawam educators answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, support for the music program and community musicmaking programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

This award recognizes that Agawam is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act. The legislation, signed into law in December 2015, replaces No Child Left Behind Act, which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing, at the expense of music and the arts.

The Lego Legendary Champions from Granger School are Nicholas Fontaine, Benjamin Lang, Alexander Williams, Timothy Rua, Erin Taylor, Nathanial Place, Christina Ritter and coach Wendy Rua. Student mentors are Christian Rua and Bobby Taylor (not pictured). SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

#### **College acceptances**

Sabrina Budington — Quinnipiac University; Caleb Hodovanec — Holyoke Community College, Newbury College; Liana Morrison — Springfield Technical Community College; Jillian Scherpa — Clarkson University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts.

#### **Special interest programs**

The STEM Starter Academy at STCC offers current seniors the opportunity to spend the summer on campus earning free college credit and learning more about careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The program includes college courses, field trips, guest speakers, lectures, and a \$500 stipend. Contact Dr. Felicia Griffin-Fennell at fdgriffin-fennell@stcc.edu or at 413-755-4819. Applications are available in the Counselor Center.

#### **Scholarship information**

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: Rovithis Realty Scholarship; Horatio Alger Association & Technical Scholarship; American College Foundation; Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship; Class of 1980 Scholarship; Amherst Orchid Society; Jewish Endowment Fund; Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts; Pioneer Valley Women's Running Club; Warrior Thunder Foundation; Warrior

Thunder Foundation; 2016 Student View Scholarship Program; Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship Program; Junior League of Greater Springfield; Hood Milk Sportsmanship Scholarship; Red Pine Scholarship; Yawkey Scholars Program; The Phillips Scholarship Fund; The Michael Yasick ADHD Scholarship by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College Filene Music Scholarship Competition; B. Davis Scholarship; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Hampden County Improvement Leagaue; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation: American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship; The Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship; Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: Eight U.S. colleges make up the "Ivy League." They are Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton and Yale,

## Lego team encourages recycling at schools

Inspired by the mission of this year's FIRST Lego League Junior team challenge, "Waste Wise," seven elementary school students from Clifford Granger School made it their personal mission to help clean up their school playgrounds by reaching out to the DPW with a request for recycling bins.

As part of their research, team members of the Lego Legendary Champions met with the school principal, Cheryl Salomao, and school custodian Keith Carrier, and asked questions about how the school could do a better job at recycling.

With the support of the town Department of Public Works, grant funds were used to purchase recycling "canables" barrels for recyclable material such as aluminum cans — at each of the elementary school playgrounds, the athletic fields behind Roberta Doering School and Agawam Junior High School, as well as at the library and School Street Park.

Student Christina Ritter said, "We know it will help protect the environment. It was save animals and humans. It will also save our town money!

Salomao told the students, "Thanks for taking on the task of making Granger a bet-

Mayor Richard Cohen said the town continues to look at ways to reduce trash disposal costs.

"It is very exciting and motivating to have students encourage and inspire our community to be environmentally responsible," he said.



### Library hosts 'daycare' for teddy bears next week

Area children are invited to bring their teddy bear, or other stuffed animal, to spend the afternoon at the Agawam Public Library on Wednesday, April 20, for "Teddy Bear Daycare."

Parents may drop off their child's stuffed animal at the library at 750 Cooper St. between 9 and 11 a.m., and return to the library with their children at 6 p.m. to enjoy story time and learn what the stuffed animals did all day at "Teddy Bear Daycare." Snacks will be served.

This program is for children of all ages. Registration is required. To register, visit www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

## Spelling bee is May 6

On May 6, students from grades 4, 5 and 6 will represent their classrooms in the town's annual Spelling Bee.

First and second place will be awarded in each grade. Each student will also recieve a small participation award. The Spelling Bee will be held at Roberta Doering School (formerly the Agawam Middle School) at 7 p.m.

#### Arts festival slated for May

Agawam High School's annual Spring Arts Festival will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12, at the high school, 760 Cooper St., Agawam.

The festival will feature artwork from two National Art Honors classes and performances by AHS choral groups. All are invited to attend.





Kent Lage, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, congratulates Emma Rubacha, of Feeding Hills, who took a first-place ribbon for a public presentation. SUBMITTED

## F.H. youth awarded at 4-H event

BEDFORD, Mass. — Emma Rubacha of Feeding Hills was among the more than 100 youths to earn awards at the annual 4-H Visual Presentation Day on Saturday, April 2, at Bedford Middle School in Bedford. This state-level public speaking competition is the culmination of public speaking contests conducted at nine regional locations across the state and featured the best of the 4-H organization's rising young public speakers

Rubacha, a 4-H member of the K9 Wizards of Southwick, received a blue ribbon. and a first-place Blue Rosetta for her presentation on the types of snakes native to Massachusetts. A complete list of the 4-H members receiving ribbons at Visual Presentation Day is available at http:// www.mass4hfoundation.org/index.php/ news/117-vp-winners.

About 300 4-H youths, ages 8 to 18, presented on a wide range of topics. Some of the many subjects included equine science, maple syrup production, how to build an A-frame fire, dog showmanship, getting to know GMOs, investing in stocks, hydroponics, magic tricks and illusions, suburban chicken-keeping, and history of firefighting. Each participant was judged against a specific set of guidelines and scored individually.

Through the Visual Presentation program, 4-H youth overcome the fear of public speaking and develop poise and confidence in making presentations," said Laurie Flanagan, executive director at the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, which hosted the event. "4-H alumni frequently tell us that their Visual Presentation experience gave them the essential skills for speaking in any professional or public setting."

For more information, visit www. mass4h.org and www.mass4hfoundation.

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## Take a page from Cooper's to add color

Adults can relive one of the calming joys of childhood and brighten a senior's day by participating in a project being sponsored by Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home.

The Main Street shop has created a coloring page with a cheerful "Hello Sunshine" floral design. Friends in the community are invited to pick up a copy, or download one from www.coopersgifts.com.

"We invite everyone to pick up a marker, a colored pencil, or even a crayon," said Kate Gourde, owner of the Agawam shop. "Have fun and unleash your creative spirit to help add a little color to the lives of others. Color the artwork, visit the shop by April 30 and give your creation to member of the Cooper Crew to receive a free gift. The art we collect will be delivered to the elderly in our

local nursing homes to brighten their day."

She added: "Coloring for grownups is all the rage right now; it's meditative, relaxing, inexpensive therapy that doesn't require skill or exertion. Many of our customers have already discovered it as a favorite pastime. We saw this as a free activity that anyone can do, have fun doing it, and bring some sunshine and color to the elderly."

Cooper's also offers charities a way to fundraise through an initiative that they call "Round Up," for which customers choose the charities that benefit. The charity for April is Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts. For more information on nominating your favorite charity, visit www.coopersgifts/roundup.

## Fishing derby Sunday at Mawaga

The Mawaga Sportsmen's Club will host its 27th annual Lunker Trout Derby on Sunday, April 17, at 377 Adams St., Agawam. Cash prizes for the event include a \$500 first prize, \$100 second prize and \$50 third prize. A \$100 tagged trout pool prize will be awarded, as well as \$150 in random size matches.

A full breakfast will be offered from

7 to 9 a.m. Lunch will also be available. Fishing will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No license is required. There is no limit on trout and bait will be available. A \$15 donation is requested. The day's events will also include a giant raffle and

All are welcome. For more information, call 413-789-0934 or 413-265-0851.

## Wreath nonprofit leader to speak Tuesday

The Agawam Junior Women's Club will meet Tuesday, April 19, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. A social with refreshments will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 7 p.m. All are invited.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Mary Ann Dietschler, who, with her group of volunteers, makes wreaths for Wreaths with a Reason in support of Operation Underground Railroad. OUR is a nonprofit organization with a mission to rescue children from human trafficking. For more information, visit www.wreathswithareason.

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership, of Massachusetts.



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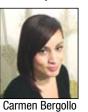
Ann Thomson Hair Stylist



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Mina Joy (not pictured) Esthetician & Makeup Artist

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#### **DAVIS** I from page 1

concert is a fundraiser for the Agawam High School Band Parents Association.

"I saw that the new band shell was being built in the park," said David Cecchi, a member of the Band Parents Association. "I just immediately thought that with all the contributions that Darcy Davis had made to this town ... really, there was no one else who was more deserving."

He said the idea occurred to several members of the band community at the same time, and they quickly agreed to pursue it. It took a few months of work with the mayor, town solicitor and City Council to draft the resolution, said Cecchi and Mayor Richard Cohen.

"I had absolutely no hesitation whatsoever" in approving the request, Cohen said. "Darcy is extremely, extremely deserving of that honor because of his contributions to our students, to music and the quality of life in Agawam. He's just one of the most wonderful, wonderful human beings you'll ever meet.

Davis' legacy in Agawam extends beyond even the 35 years that he served as band director of the high school. Following his retirement in 1990, Davis became a fixture for the next two decades at the Agawam Senior Center, leading musical groups and curating a "music room" full of local arts memorabilia.

"My son says I'm a collector — a collector of collections," Davis said. "And my wife goes crazy because I never throw anything away."

#### Musical background

Davis comes from a musical family; his father, Darcy B. Davis Sr., was a band leader in Brattleboro, Vt. Darcy Jr. grew up in North Adams, Mass., and was a drummer in the band at Drury High School in that

Following his graduation from Williams College in 1948, Davis went to work as the music director at Tabor Academy in Marion, Mass. Intially, he also taught at the private school.



The band shell at School Street Park, which opened last year, will be renamed the Darcy Davis Band Shell during the Band-Athon in May. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

"They had me teaching English and glee club and band," Davis recalled. "After the first year, I did so bad that they said, 'You stick with the band."

He later went to work at Boston University as assistant band director, and served as a judge for national band and drum corps contests. It was at one of those events that he had a conversation with a band director from Holyoke that would change his life.

"He said, 'What are your plans for the future? I think Agawam, they have a great football team, the [band] director is older and ready to retire, they'd like a guy like you to go up there."

So he came to Agawam, and immediately found that the job had grown: "When I got here, the principal said, 'Gee, we lost our chorus director, would you mind taking that over, too?' I didn't know too much about it. I had a lot of learning to do."

In 1957, the school decided to stage "The Count and the Coed," its most ambitious musical production yet. Agawam High School had put on operettas and revues in the past, but the 1957 edition was the first to take advantage of the auditorium at the new school on Cooper Street, with elaborate sets and scene changes. It was also the first stage experience for the new band director.

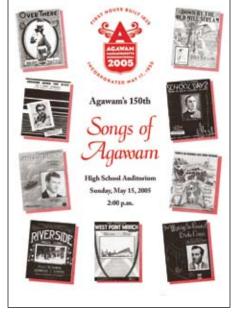
"I'd never seen a Broadway show," Davis recalled. "Of course, I learned fast."

#### **National honors**

One of Davis' proudest moments as band director came in 1962, when the Agawam High School Marching Band was selected to represent Massachusetts in a national parade in Mason City, Iowa, to celebrate the world premiere of the film "The Music Man." It was as much an organizational challenge as an artistic one.

"It only cost \$100,000," Davis recalled with a chuckle. "Well, it happened, I guess, that the football team had gone to the Peanut Bowl in Georgia a few weeks back from that. And so, well, if the football team can go to the Peanut Bowl, why can't the band

To raise that \$100,000 - to cover busand train fare, and lodging, for 98 students



Darcy Davis organized "Songs of Agawam," a special concert commemorating people, events and themes of Agawam's history, as part of the town's 150th anniversary celebration in 2005. SUBMITTED PHOTO

- the whole town pulled together, Davis said.

"The town was just superb," he said. "Every restaurant had a bucket for donations 'Your share will get us there.' All of January, February, every week, some organization was holding a benefit for the band. The football team had a special game to benefit

It was the start of what became a long line of appearances by Davis' Agawam bands at national festivals, parades and tournaments. He fondly recalls the 1972 trip to Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.

On that trip that Davis coined a new name for the band. When the organizers of the North American Band Contest asked him what his group was called, he didn't want to call them the "Brownie Band," so - following a suggestion by his teenage

DAVIS I page 13





#### **DAVIS I** from page 12

son, Darcy G. Davis - he dubbed them the "Marching Mohawks," after the high school's Indian head mascot.

The Mohawk theme became a regular feature in the band's marching routines, with the flag corps wearing Native American headdresses and marching routines with titles such as "Custer's Last Stand," "How the West Was Won." By the mid-1970s, Davis' bands were regularly winning competitions.

Darcy G. Davis, the son, graduated from AHS in 1976 and followed in his father's footsteps, becoming the band director at Rockville High School in Vernon, Conn. He plans to retire this year, Davis said.

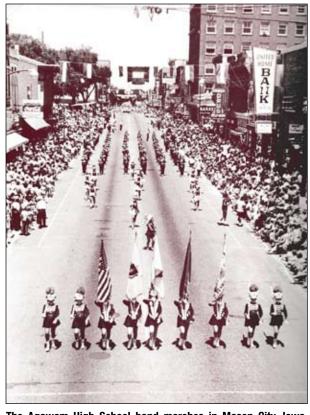
Several times, the two Davis-led bands competed with each other at festivals.

"Down in Atlantic City one time, well, his band beat us in the concert activities," Davis recalled. "But my band beat his in the marching ac-

Davis lives on Main Street in Agawam with his wife, Ruth. The couple also has a daughter, Lynn Davis, who is the associate dean of admissions at Brandeis University.

Davis is proud of his marching formations but said today's directors have raised the bar, musically - including his son and the current Agawam director, William

"I think they're better musicians than I was, by far," Davis said. "Bill Hueglin has



The Agawam High School band marches in Mason City, Iowa, representing the state of Massachusetts in a parade marking the release of the "Music Man" film in 1962. SUBMITTED PHOTO

been superb. He's done things with that band I could never accomplish."

In Cecchi's view, however, it will take some time for anyone to match the impact that Davis has had on several decades of Agawam musicians.

When Mr. Hueglin started, he was still  $being\,measured\,[against]\,Darcy\,Davis,\"{''}\,said$ Cecchi. "Those are huge shoes to fill. ... It's rare that someone comes to a town and is there for that long and has such an impact on thousands of students. He's really made a difference in this town."

## Church chicken supper this Saturday

Agawam Congregational church will hold a chicken pie supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16. The menu will also include mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberry sauce, salad, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, milk and dessert.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. Tickets at the door are \$15. To purchase tickets, call the church office at 413-786-7111.

The church is at 745 Main St., Aga-

#### **HOUSING** I from page 1

coming more attractive to young people," said Goldsen. "The town also lacks the zoning for developers to come into town and create more multi-unit homes."

Goldsen says while the town came make a choice to expend funds to help foster more affordable housing units, it could also go the direction of making policy and ordinance changes.

"By making changes in your zoning bylaws, it could help bring developers in to create these units," said Goldsen.

She said the zoning regulations should create incentives for developers to come to Agawam and build affordable housing units. She did praise the multi-use zone created at Walnut Street Extension, but says that type of flexible zoning must be expanded.

Another priority for the town is to try and extend an agreement with state and federal officials to maintain the low-cost subsidy on 200 units of affordable housing at Pheasant Hills, Goldsen said. The subsidy is set to expire in 2019.

"The town needs to intervene before that happens," she said.

Other priorities identified in the assessment involve the creation of different forms of affordable housing, including housing geared to the elderly and physi-

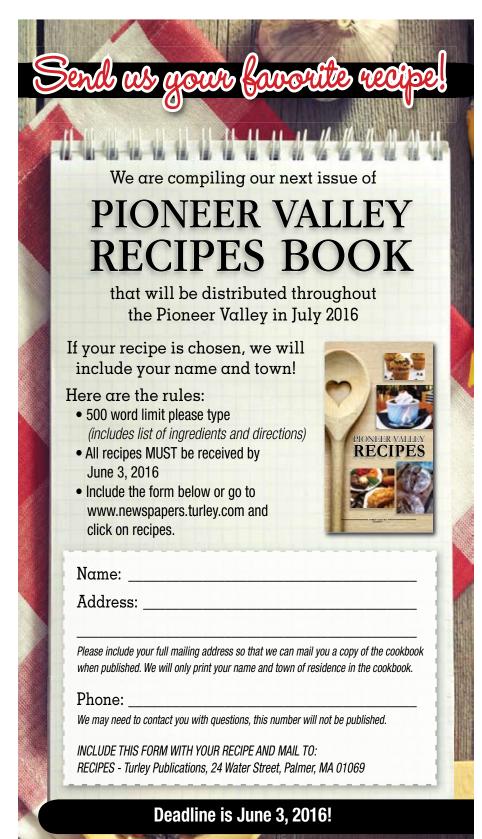
cally and mentally disabled, transition housing, housing for low-income residents, and housing for families with five or more members.

She also suggests the town needs an emergency shelter for the homeless and foreclosure prevention assistance. Assistance for rehabilitation of low-income properties was also recommended.

The assessment showed the population is leveling off after tripling since 1950. Demographically, the town is getting older, as younger people leave. The assessment also shows a drop in school enrollment of 300 students during the last five years.

The Housing Subcommittee took the information presented under advisement, and will likely be seeking funds through the Community Preservation Act or the town's general fund to hire a firm to create a housing production plan.

That plan would be an action plan used by the town with steps to increase the amount of affordable housing throughout the community. It would formalize the priorities identified by the assessment and identify the costs associated with achieving those priorities. Most of the changes identified would need the support of the mayor and approval by the Agawam City Council to expend any funds.





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VOLLEYBALL

## **Brownies sweep** past Ludlow

By Tim Peterson

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - In the fall of 2013, Kevin Pender won a total of 10 matches as the Southwick girls varsity volleyball head coach. Last Thursday, Pender posted his first victory as the new boys volleyball varsity coach at Agawam High School.

The Brownies coasted to a 3-0 season opening victory against North Division rival Ludlow at Mullins Gymnasium, which is located inside Ludlow High School. The game scores were 25-15, 25-14, 25-21.

"The boys have been working very hard in practice during the past couple of weeks," said Pender following the season opening match. I thought that they played very well in this match today."

Pender had been the Brownies junior varsity and assistant varsity coach for four years. He replaces Patricia Demers, who began the Agawam boys volleyball program almost 20 years ago.

"Pat was the heart and soul of this volleyball team for many years," Pender said. "It's an honor for me to step into her shoes this year. I learned a lot from her and I'm hoping to continue the strong tradition that she has built here."

Agawam captured the program's first state championship title against Milford in 2013.

Ludlow head coach Fred Glanville also has a lot of respect for coach Demers, who retired at the end of last season.

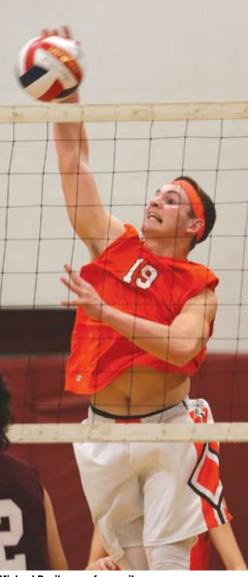
"I have a tremendous amount of respect for coach Demers," Glanville said. "She has a lot of knowledge about the game of volleyball. She would always call me on the phone looking for information about the other teams in our league. She also recommended me when I was applying for a coaching position at Westfield State."

The returning players on this year's Agawam varsity roster are senior Mark Vilkhovoy (12 digs), senior Caleb Hodovanec (11 kills, four digs), senior Alan Burlachenko (12 kills), junior Mike Basile (nine kills), and junior Garrett Hollander (39 assists, nine digs).

"I really liked what I saw from all of our players, especially our returning players," Pender said.



**Garrett Hollander goes up for a set.** TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Michael Basile goes for a spike.

**LACROSSE** 

## Martin's six goals help in opener

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM - Agawam girls lacrosse coach Carla Warner says she is playing a much younger team than in recent years, but the Brownies got off to a great start to their regular season as the experience on the team gave the Brownies a dominant 19-2 win over South Hadley.

Agawam had their first couple of games postponed by weather last week, and so their first action of the season would come against the Tigers, a league rival for the Brownies.

The Brownies had absolutely no trouble with South Hadley once they started scoring.

The Tigers would actually strike first, with Taylor Roy getting past the Brownies' Kristina Tran about a minute into the

LACROSSE | page 16



Eliza Timms circles behind the South Hadley goal.



Hailey Lyne tries to block the path of a Tiger forward. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SOFTBALL

## Wheeler K's through Westfield

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM - The Agawam softball team pounded out 12 hits against Westfield in their season opener on Monday afternoon, and that is the same number of strikeouts senior pitcher Allison Wheeler racked up in her first win of 2016.

The defending Western Massachusetts Division 1 champions got their season started after a few postponements last week and needed four innings to get their bats going.

But once they started hitting, the hits kept coming.

In their 6-0 victory, Agawam scored two runs each in the

SOFTBALL page 16



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## Holyoke pitching deals Agawam defeat

ascibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM - Thanks to a good start and a good finish, the Holyoke baseball team was able to get past Agawam in their first game of the regular season 8-2 on Monday afternoon at Shea Park.

Both teams were delayed in getting their season started due to poor weather last week, but the Knights were able to get going almost immediately with a three-run first inning.

Agawam was able to answer back with a run in the bottom of the first, but the Knights took the run back in the second. Pitcher Carlos Lopez was able to keep Agawam's bats in check, and the Knights then broke out for four more runs in the top of the seventh to put the game away.

Jose Lopez started the game with a single. Lopez would single with one out and Tim Girard walked.

Eric Robert, the Knights catcher, then had the big hit of the inning with a double that drove in two runs. An error would allow a third run to cross the plate, giving the Knights a

In the bottom frame, Chris Morassi led off the first with a walk, and moved on a walk and a single. He would score on a single by Matt O'Keefe to cut the deficit to 3-1.

Lopez would reach base in the top of the second inning for Holyoke on a walk. He stole second and would

come to the plate on a hit by Eliezer Vazquez, who doubled to the out-

Holvoke would also threaten in the third inning, but a great throw down to second by O'Keefe would cut down a base stealer.

Morassi would score again for the Brownies in the bottom of the fifth inning. He reached on a base hit and eventually was able to score without the benefit of another hit.

The top of the order would come through again in the seventh inning, with Carlos Lopez, Tim Girard, John Moskal, and Anthony Diaz scoring runs in the frame.

It made the job of pitching very easy for Carlos Lopez, who went the first six innings and allowed just two runs on four hits. He would strike out five hitters, and had some trouble with four walks, only one of them hurting him in the first inning. Diaz would finish the game with a scoreless inning.

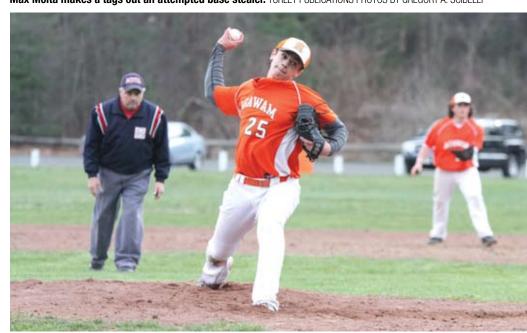
Joe Oliver went the first five innings for the Brownies. He had a good outing, allowing four runs on just four hits, but free passes were a problem with six walks.

Tym Regnier and Ryan also pitched for Agawam, combining to allow four more runs in the final two innings.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 258.



Max Molta makes a tags out an attempted base stealer. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Joe Oliver delivers a pitch in the fourth inning.

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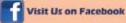




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As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com

A TURLEY PUBLICATION



## **Agawam Little League Golf Tournament**

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## Sports

## The Week Ahead

#### Thursday, April 14

**Baseball** Agawam at Holyoke 4:15 p.m. **Girls Tennis** Agawam at Sabis 4 p.m. **Girls Track** Agawam at Amherst 4 p.m.

#### Friday, April 15

**Boys Lacrosse** Agawam at Pope Francis 4 p.m. (at Spec Pond) **Girls Lacrosse** Agawam at Longmeadow 4 p.m.

**Boys Tennis** Agawam at Northampton 4 p.m. **Girls Tennis** Agawam at Central 4 p.m.

**Boys Volleyball** Chicopee Comprehensive at Agawam 5 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 16

4 p.m.

**Boys Lacrosse** Agawam at Hopkinton

Sunday, April 17

No games scheduled.

Monday, April 18

**Boys Lacrosse** 

Agawam at East Longmeadow 1 p.m. Pittsfield at Agawam 3 p.m. **Boys Tennis** Agawam at East Longmeadow 11 a.m. **Girls Tennis** Agawam at South Hadley (at Mount Holyoke College) 4 p.m. **Boys Volleyball** Westfield at Agawam 3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19 **Baseball** Amherst at Agawam 4 p.m. Softball Agawam at Chicopee Comprehensive 12 p.m. **Boys Tennis** Agawam at Ludlow 4 p.m. **Boys Volleyball** Agawam at Athol 5 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 20

**Boys Lacrosse** 12 p.m. Doherty at Agawam Softball Agawam at Minnechaug 4 p.m. **Boys Volleyball** Agawam at Minnechaug 5 p.m. **Girls Tennis** Agawam at Amherst 4 p.m.

#### **COLLEGE NOTES**

### Vecchiarelli scores in loss for Salem

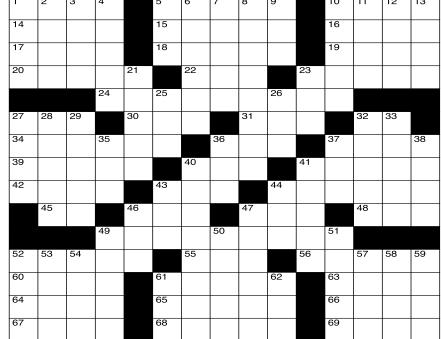
SALEM - Salem State women's lacrosse player and Agawam resident Alexis Vecchiatelli scored a goal in a 20-10 loss to Worcester State on Saturday, April 9.

## **AAA Falcons Girls** Softball signups

REGION - Looking for a few more players from the Springfield/Belchertown/ Granby/Chicopee area for 14 and Under team playing in NEYSA Girls Fast Pitch

at Greenleaf Park Springfield.

gmail.com or call 413-323-5887.



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Brave act
- 5. Ejects saliva
- 10. A vale 14. Expression of surprise
- 15. Feels concern
- 16. Saddle horse 17. Emerald Isle
- 18. Silly
- 19. Female child
- 20. Cyprinids
- 22. Comedienne
- Gasteyer 23. National capital
- 24. Court game 27. Tooth caregiver
- 30. Supervises flying 31. Small amount
- 32. Degree of loudness
- 34. Wore down 36. Upper-class young
- woman (abbr.)
- 37. Actor Pitt
- 39. Red mineral 40. Have already done

- 42. Forms over a cut
- 43. Performer \_ Lo Green
- 45. An alternative 46. 5th note of a major
- scale 47. Tell on 48. Patti Hearst's
- captors 49. Breaks apart
- 52. Russian country house
- 55. Female grunts 56. Type of sword
- 60. Ottoman Empire title 61. Emaciation
- 63. He was Batman
- 64. Nonmoving
- 65. Group in China 66. A thought
- 67. Withered 69. Tide
- 68. Worldly mosquitoes

- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Unreal 2. River in Norway
- 3. Long poem 4. Cygnus star
- 5. \_\_ fi (slang) 6. Known for its canal
- 8. Inhabited
- south and southeast
- 11. \_\_ Clapton,
- Defense 25. Begetter

Answers on page 8

- 27. Early union leader 28. Lawmaker
- 32. Negligible amounts
- 33. Roll



- 41. Asian antelope
  - 44. Pressed against
    - 7. A citizen of Iran
      - 9. Midway between
      - 10. Semitic fertility god
      - musician
      - 12 Lawman 13. City 3000 B.C.
      - 21. They hold valuables 23. Department of
      - 26. Check
      - 29. About Sun
- 61. Women's social
- 57. \_\_ farewell 58. Ancient Greek City 59. A way to derive

54. Partially burn

35. Just a little bit

36. Small, spotted

40. Blue Hen State

43. Police officer

44. Digital audiotape

46. Covers most of

49. Find this on hot

51. Absorption unit

52. Sitcom "My Two

53. Phil \_\_, former CIA

47. Inflorescence

37. Founder of Babism

cubes

38. Father

41. Satisfies

Earth

days

50. Fanatical

organization 62. Female sibling

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Christie Mirski takes possession of the ball in traffic. Turley publications photos by gregory A. Sci-



Taylor DeGeorge looks for an open teammate.

### **LACROSSE ■** from page 1

That would lead to a Julie Serra goal which would tie the score 1-1. Marley Medina, an attacker for the Tigers, then scored on a pass from Sarah Lacey, to make it 2-1

with 19:34 remaining in the first half. That would be the last time South Hadley would score in the game.

Katie Martin, who committed last fall to Old Dominion University to play lacrosse, score the first of her six goals with 18:45 remaining to tie the score.

From there, the Brownies would not only dominate possession of the ball, they also did an excellent job defending their own goal, putting a lot of pressure and causing turnovers each time South Hadley would attempt to approach the Agawam goal.

Serra would follow Martin's goal with a score a little more than a minute later, aking it 3-2 Agawam

Christie Mirski then scored a goal to make it 4-1 and Martin's second goal made it 5-2 with 14:53 remaining. Mirski was playing in a lacrosse game for the first time

"She took a year off last season and focused on basketball," said Warner. "We're really happy to have her back this year. She's a good player."

Agawam did not slow down with the scoring and would go up 13-2 at halftime.

With the running time in the second frame, Agawam would outscore their opponents 6-0, with the Agawam defense play-

ing a big role in the shutout half. Martin would have the big day for Agawam with seven points, scoring six goals and assisting on another.



Nina Bruno picks up a ground ball.

Eliza Timms had a big first game of the regular season. She scored three times and had three assists. Serra and Nina Bruno also notched hat tricks with three goals each. Mirski, Caitlin Normoyle, Emily Oliver and Jill Scherpa all had single goals for Agawam.

Tran had seven saves.

Medina and Roy had the only goals for South Hadley. Goalie Hanna Kopci had 10 saves for South Hadley.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 258.



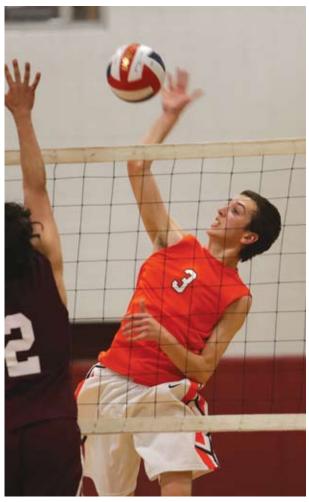








Alan Bulachenko returns the ball to Ludlow's side.



Caleb Hodovanec makes a spike for the Brownies.

#### **VOLLEYBALL** ■ from page 14

"Two of our returning players are juniors and they need to continue to keep improving in every match that we play."

While it was the season opening match for the Brownies, it was the Lions (1-2) third match of the regular season. They began the season with a non-league home victory against East Longmeadow before losing, 3-0 at West Springfield in the league opener, last Tuesday.

"I think our league is one of the toughest in the state from top to bottom," Granville said. "I also felt like we would have the advantage in this match today because we've already played a few matches and it was their first one. We made a lot of errors in this match, especially in the first two games, but they can be fixed in practice."

Leading the way for the home team were senior Sergev Vikhrev (18 assists, nine digs, two blocks) junior Chad Noga (seven kills, 10 digs), junior Nick Manewich (three kills, three blocks, three digs), and senior Tim Cardaropli (21 digs).

Hodovanec began the first game with a

pair of kills, which was sandwiched around an ace by Burlachenko. The Brownies kept the lead the rest of the way in game one, but the Lions managed to keep it close. Agawam closed out the opening set with a 4-0 run with Burlachenko handling the serving duties.

Ludlow took a 2-1 lead in the second game following a combined block by Vikhrev and Manewich.

The visitors would quickly retake the lead with an 8-0 run and they never looked back, as they built a double digit advantage.

Just like in the first two games, Agawam controlled the momentum from start to finish in the third game, which enabled Pender to celebrate his first victory as a boys volleyball coach.

The second meeting of the season between the two league rivals is scheduled to take place at Agawam High School on May 5.

Tim Peterson is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

#### **SOFTBALL ■** from page 14

fourth, fifth, and sixth innings. Wheeler, meanwhile, got into cruise control as she breezed through a complete game, scattering just five baserunners on three hits and two walks. Westfield did not threaten much, and Agawam's defense played flawlesslv.

After getting shut out during their first run through the order, the offense started putting hits together against Westfield's Hayley Moniz. Rachel Lapponese and Katie Grasso got on base at the top of the order, and Mario Moccio and Sierra Kruser contributed as well.

Kruser, Grasso, and Moccio had two hits each. All three had RBI's along with Gianna Perella, Jenna Beach, and Lapponese.

The victory gave Agawam a good start to their abbreviated league schedule that was originally the first four games of their regular season. But games against West Springfield and Amherst were postponed to later dates.

Agawam's first run through their league ended Wednesday with a game at Minnechaug Regional High School on Wednesday.

Coming up, Agawam will face the team they faced and defeated 2-1 in last year's Western Mass. Championship, Pittsfield on April 18 at 4 p.m. The following day, Agawam travels to Chicopee Comprehensive for a 12 p.m. matchup.





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## Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@ turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

#### Friday, April 15

NORTHEAST REINING HORSE SHOW in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Free admission.

Saturday, April 16 AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHICKEN PIE SUPPER at 5:30 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children; at the door, \$15. To purchase tickets, call 413-786-7111. The church is at 745 Main St., Agawam.

#### Sunday, April 17

MAWAGA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB LUNKER TROUT DERBY at 377 Adams St., Agawam. A full breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Lunch also available. Fishing from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No license required. \$15 donation requested. All are welcome. For more information, call 413-789-0934 or 413-265-0851.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will hold its semi-annual coin show at the Dante Club, 1198 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coin dealers will be exhibiting, buying and selling coins, and giving free appraisals. Admission and parking are free.

#### Tuesday, April 19

CITIZENS RESTORING CONGAMOND'S will meet Crabby Joe's Restaurant, 141 Congamond Road at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to all. Updates on invasive weed treatments and water health. Suffield First Selectwoman, Melissa Mack, and Southwick Harbor Master/Police Chief, David A. Ricardi, will speak and take questions. Congamond Lakes Environmental Protection Organization will provide update on proposed mining operation on South Pond.

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. New members welcome.

AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB will meet at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Social with refreshments begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by business meeting at 7 p.m. All are invited. New members welcome. Guest speaker will be Mary Ann Dietschler, who makes wreaths for Wreaths With a Reason in support of Operation Underground Railroad.

#### Wednesday, April 20

UPHA-14 SPRING PREMIER HORSE SHOW in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield today through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free admission.

#### Friday, April 22

AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER, 954 Main St., will host a viewing of "Trial and Error" by Steve Henderson from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The audience will view the most ridiculous, most hilarious miscarriage of the justice system ever. Free and open to the public. Gratuities welcome.

NEW ENGLAND SPRING CLASSIC DOG SHOWS today through Sunday in Mallary East and Mallary West on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission.

#### Saturday, April 23

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM, 760 Main St., on the corner of Main Street and Elm Street indoor tag sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Antiques, new items, multiple tables, bake table and snack bar. For more information, call the church office 413-786-7300.

HOLISTIC VENDOR FAIR at the Feeding Hills Wellness Center, 567 Springfield St., Feeding Hills today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to the public. For more information, contact the Feeding Hills Wellness Center at 413-244-4660 or visit fh-wellness.com.

SPRINGFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY annual photography workshop at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This free conference is open to the public. Those planning to attend the event should email Kevin Fay at fay44@comcast. net. Participants should bring their cameras, lenses, flash and camera manuals.

#### Sunday, April 24

THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL AND FIREHOUSE MU-SEUM at 35 Elm St., Agawam, will open for the season from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature a special exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eastern States Exhibition. For more information, visit www.agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com or follow it on Facebook.

FLUTIST TIMOTHY MACRI will open the spring and summer concert series at Second Baptist Church, 100 N. Main St., Suffield with a performance at 3 p.m.

JUDITH BLACK, nationally known award-winning actress/storyteller, will portray Civil War abolitionist and suffragette Lucy Stone for one performance only at Springfield Armory NHS theatre at the corner of State and Federal streets (STCC campus), at 2 p.m. The program is free. For more information, call 413-734-8551 or visit www.nps.gov/spar.

#### Wednesday, April 27

SPRING BOOK SALE sponsored by the Friends of the Southwick Public Library, 5-7 p.m. member preview today at the library, 95 Feeding Hills Road (new members may join at the door for \$5; \$10 families); regular sale days 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, email inthejog2@yahoo.com or call 413-569-1221.

#### Thursday, April 28

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "All About Emus and Why Would a Museum Hath Their Eggs," featuring Elizabeth Thwing, nonfiction writer for children, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

#### Saturday, April 30

LADIES TEA IN THE GARDEN at 1 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. Tea, sandwiches, desserts served by white-gloved waiters. Tickets \$12, \$5 for girls under 12, available mornings in the church office or by calling 413-786-7111.

CITIZENS RESTORING CONGAMOND will hold a plant sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Suffield Green at Mountain Road and N. Main Street, rain or shine. All profits support CRC's efforts to maintain Congamond Lakes' water quality and fight invasive weeds.

#### Sunday, May 1

PANCAKES FOR AUTISM at Moolicious Farm, 258 Feeding Hills Road, Southwick, 8 a.m. to noon. \$8 for adults; \$6 for children includes Joe's famous pancakes with bacon or sausage and a beverage. Proceeds to benefit the Western New England Walk Now For Autism Speaks.

#### Friday, May 6

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL APPLAUSE SE-RIES will feature concert pianist Deborrah Wyndham who will present "The History of Ragtime" at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. It is free and open to the public.

#### Sunday, May 8

TOUR THE PHELPS-HATHEWAY HOUSE & GARDEN, 55 South Main St., Suffield from 2 to 4 p.m. followed by a traditional tea service served by Mrs. Phelps. Young guests welcome to don a period costume. Admission is \$15 per person, \$40 for a group of three, \$12.50 for CTL members, \$10 for children 12 and under. Registration required. To register, call 860-668-0055 or email phelps.hatheway@ctlandmarks.org.

#### Wednesday, May 11

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is

#### Saturday, May 14

WESTFIELD GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE at 28 Court St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Perennials, annuals and indoor plants featured at reasonable prices, along with "garden art," flower baskets, ornaments and accessories. A raffle of gift baskets will be included in the day's activities.

#### Sunday, May 15

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a Remembrance Garden Dedication Ceremony at 11 a.m. in Forest Park on Sumner Avenue in Springfield to mark the opening of the garden, the first of its kind in the United States. A reception will take place following the ceremony at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield.

#### Friday, May 20

FRIENDS OF THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE from 2-5 p.m., \$3 for the public, free for Friends members; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at no charge for all. All proceeds to benefit library programs.

#### **ONGOING**

THE UPSTAIRS GALLERY AND GLASS CASES at the Agawam Public Library contain 68 photos that were juried into the Friends of the Agawam Public Library Sixth Open Juried Photography Show. The show will run to Feb. 26. Brochures are available in the gallery area at the library that describe the photographs.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam, For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, guilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www. survivorjourneys.org.

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## Agawam Senior Center

#### Lunch Menu

Monday, April 18: Patriots Day. Senior Center closed. Tuesday, April 19: Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, peas and carrots, pudding.

dnesday, April 20: Oriental grilled chicken breast salad mandarin oranges, olives, onions, crunchy noodles, baked

Thursday, April 21: Roast chicken with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, bananas.

Friday, April 22: Tomato florentine soup, broccoli quiche, cucumber salad, diced pears

#### **Calendar of Events**

Monday, April 18: Patriots Day. Senior Center closed.

Tuesday, April 19: SHINE representative available (by appt.); 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise, Computer Tech Club meets; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("And So It goes"), ladies billiards; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 6 p.m., beginner line dance, evening sewing, art class with Barbara Cohen; Agawam Junior Women's Club.

Wednesday, April 20: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 8:30, Meet the Mayor (coffee shop); 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Chapter 2 meeting; 2 p.m., Jack Welch CPA available (by appt.); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold; 6:30 p.m., Turnverein chorus.

Thursday, April 21: 9 a.m., no exercise; 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch; 1:30 p.m., Melody Band practice; 4:15 p.m., Pilates; 6:30 p.m., evening pitch, evening line dancing.

Friday, April 22: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 4 p.m., poker; 6:30 p.m., free interactive play, "Trail & Error" directed by Steve Henderson.

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The deadline for all print classified ads in the Quabbin and Suburban Zones is Friday at noon for publication the following week. The deadline for the Hill Towns Zone is Monday at noon. All online ads will be published for 7 days including the corresponding print editions.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD' toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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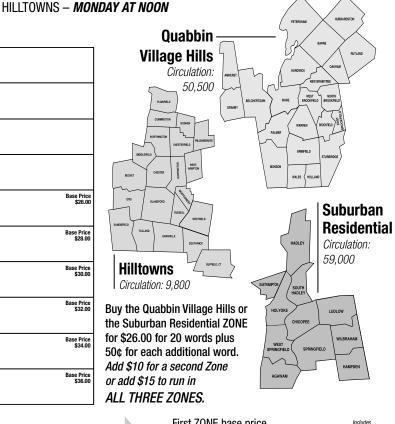
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## Our Town

## EB's supports B&G



Recently, the Boys and Girls Club of West Springfield received a donation through EB's Restaurant's "Give Back Monday" fundraising program. Pictured above are staff members from EB's Restaurant presenting a check to Dan D'Angelo, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of West Springfield, in support of club programs. "We are very grateful for the restaurant's generosity and are truly fortunate to be a part of such a supportive and caring community," said D'Angelo. EB's is at 385 Walnut Street Ext., Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## New salon opens in Feeding Hills

Fringe Hair and Nail Bar, which offers hair services and specializes in advanced color, cutting and special occasion styles, opened Feb. 1 at 1349 Springfield St., Suite B, Feeding Hills.

The stylists and technicians at Fringe are all independent with hours by appointment normally offered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. up to seven days a week.

For more information and for stylists' direct contact numbers, call 413-786-0423 or send a message at Facebook.com/fringehairandnailbar.

## **Country View hosts grand opening**

Country View Primitives hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate its opening at Cooper's Commons, 159 and 161 Main St., Agawam. State and local officials, the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, friends and family, customers and crafters all joined to welcome the new business to

Tanya Rogalski is the owner of the new Country View Primitives Shop. Although the brick and mortar store is all new, Country View Primitives has been in business online since 2007. "I had been looking for a shop and I came across this listing. It just seemed like the perfect spot. You have Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home and Floral Concepts by Tom right across the way here and it's a great building in a good area." she explained.

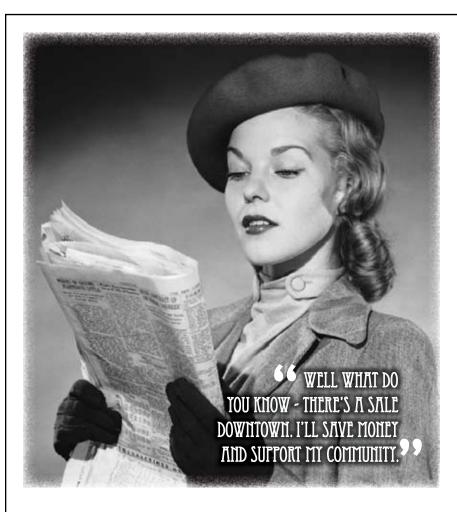
Rogalski's training in interior design, talent for handmade crafts and eclectic collection of antiques has grown a passionate following of customers for years. "A retail storefront is a dream come true for me; a place that can let the feeling of our merchandise come alive. Primitive decorating is a way of life; it brings you back to a simpler time. I've always gravitated toward 1800s aesthetics," she said.

For more information about Country View Primitives, call 413-977-2590, visit www.countryviewprimitives.com or the shop's Facebook page at www. facebook.com/c.v.prims/.





Pictured at the grand opening of Country View Primitives, in back row, left to right, are City Council President James Cichetti; Tom Fredette from Floral Concepts by Tom; Robin Wozniak of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce; state Sen. Don Humason; and state Rep. Nick Boldyga. Front row, left to right, are Tanya Rogalski and Ayden Rogalski of Country View Primitives, Mayor Richard Cohen, City Councilor Richard Theroux and Kate Gourde of Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home. SUBMITTED PHOTO



## SOME THINGS NEVER GET OLD

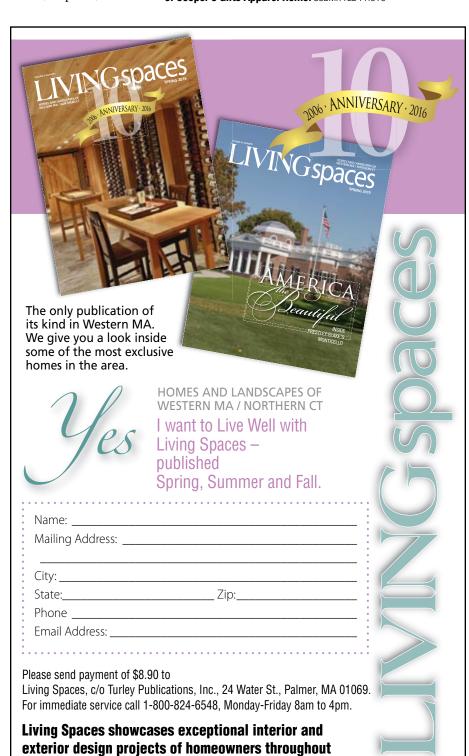
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## Applause finale to feature 'History of Ragtime'

The 12th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series concludes Friday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library with a concert by pianist Deborrah Wyndham.

Through music, Wyndham shares the history of ragtime, our nation's first "pop" music. An important part of American musical heritage and the foundation of jazz, ragtime has influenced countless musicians and styles of music. Combining different ethnic musical influences and at first rejected by society for its unusual, syncopated rhythm and the venues where it was played, ragtime eventually received wide acclaim and its popularity quickly spread.

The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, and can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information on Applause Series events, visit www.agawamcc.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that provides part of its funding. The Agawam Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



Pianist Deborrah Wyndham brings the 12th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series to an end on May 6 when she presents "The History of Ragtime." SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Buy tickets now for best seats at Shrine Circus

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Tickets for the Shrine Circus, the "Circus with a Purpose," with feature performances from Thursday through Sunday, April 28 through May 1, will be available at the Eastern States Exposition Coliseum box office daily beginning Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Advance tickets are available online now at melhashrinecircus.com.

Among the most popular and daring performances to appear in the ring this year will be Flat Out Freestyle doing their unique stunts, Captain Shawn Marren, "The Human Cannonball," Johnny Rockett "thrill rider," and a high-flying high wire act.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Thursday; 7:30 p.m. Friday; 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$15 for general reserved seats and \$18 for box seats. No discounts apply to

box seats. Children under age 3 seated on an adult's lap do not need a ticket.

The box office is open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield. Tickets can also be purchased online or at 413-205-5087.

Discounted coupons are available at all Western Massachusetts Big Y locations. When ordering tickets, indicate if a ticket-holder uses a wheelchair or requires special assistance, and the Shriners will do their best to accommodate attendees' needs. In such situations, there will be room for only one other person to sit with the ticket-holder.

The proceeds from the circus are used for the benefit of the Melha Shriners and are not tax deductible. Sponsors for this year's "Circus with a Purpose" include Big Y, the Hampden County Bar Association and the International House of Pancakes.

## Walkathon to benefit mental health alliance

WESTFIELD — The public is invited to join hundreds of others as the Agawam-based National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts hosts its 16th annual walkathon, "A Journey of Hope and Recovery," Sunday, May 15. It takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Beveridge Pavilion Annex at Stanley Park in Westfield.

This is a family-friendly event with complimentary food and beverages, music and a raffle for everyone. The walkathon route is suitable for all ages and abilities, and there will be plenty of seats under the pavilion for relaxing. Free NAMI-WM T-shirts will be provided.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of all those affected by mental illness and their families. Its Western Massachusetts office is on Springfield Street in Agawam.

For more information, visit www.namiwm.org or call the office at 413-786-9139.

## Book signing in May at **Heritage Woods**

Heritage Woods Senior Living will host a book signing by Tinky Weisblat, author of "Pulling Taffy: A Year with Dementia & Other Adventures," at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 11.

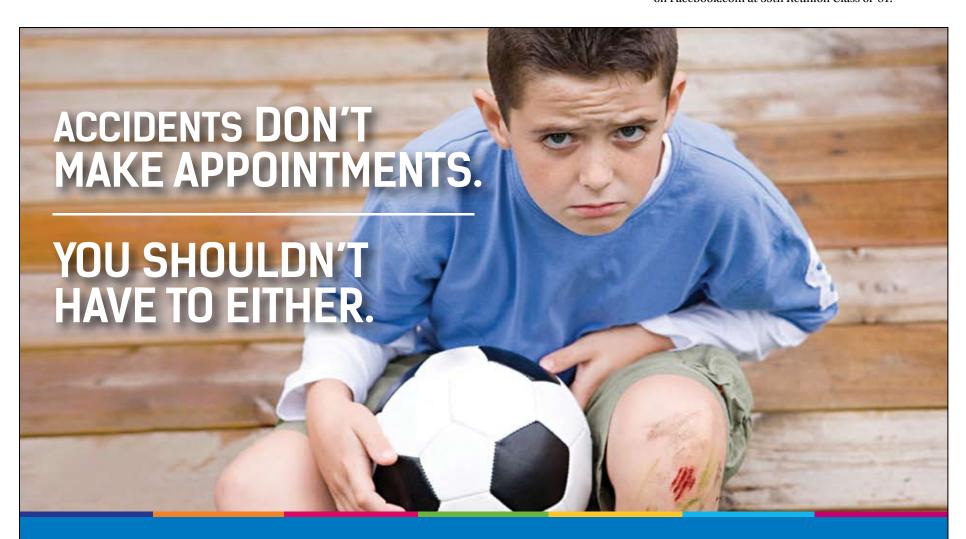
"Pulling Taffy" is a memoir of a daughter's account of the final year living with her elderly mother, nicknamed Taffy, who had Alzheimer's. Weisblat will share their story and offer fun and helpful tips for others caring for a loved one with dementia.

For more information or to register, call 413-789-8332 or email nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com.

Heritage Woods is at 462 Main St., Agawam.

## Class of '81 plans reunion

The Agawam High School Class of 1981 will hold its 35year reunion at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St., Feeding Hills. Those planning on attending are asked to respond no later than May 15 by emailing Lisa Sliech at lao435@comcast.net or by message on Facebook.com at 35th Reunion Class of '81.



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> **WESTFIELD 57 Union Street** 413-642-7200

Monday-Friday: 8 am-7 pm Saturday & Sunday: 8 am-5 pm

**FEEDING HILLS** 24 North Westfield Street 413-831-7800

Monday-Friday: 10 am-7 pm Saturday & Sunday: 8 am-5 pm Baystate Health

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